

# News Release



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## Governor's Strategic Growth Plan

### **State Parks Outlines Long-Range Program For Governor's Rebuilding of California**

State Capitol – California State Parks' Director Ruth Coleman has outlined an aggressive program that supports Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger's \$222 billion Strategic Growth Plan to refurbish the crumbling infrastructure of the State of California.

In addition, Coleman unveiled how this same program would provide long-overdue funding to finish high-priority projects and add new recreational facilities and opportunities to meet the huge demand that is coming with future population growth.

Coleman outlined her Department's portion of the Governor's Strategic Growth Plan, an Infrastructure Facilities Bond Act Program, in a hearing before the Assembly Committee on Water, Parks and Wildlife January 25, 2005 at the State Capitol. The State Parks' portion of this bond act contains \$215 million to be used during the first, five-year plan of the program.

"The Governor is creating an exciting new opportunity for us to put our park system back on its feet," said Director Coleman. "Our system is aging and it gets heavy use from nearly 80 million visitors per year. That kind of use from millions who love the system has added wear and tear that must be addressed. This Governor has put a plan on the table to start fixing the system and that we know our loyal park visitors will strongly support."

As part of the Governor's Strategic Growth Plan, Senate Bill 1163 by Dick Ackerman (R-Irvine) and Assembly Bill 1831 by Dave Jones (D-Sacramento) would create the 2006 California Critical Infrastructure Facilities Bond Act Fund in the amount of \$1.2 billion. Of this amount, \$427 million would be reserved for the development, restoration, or improvement of state park system capital assets; for seismic retrofitting of high-risk state buildings; and for the renovation, improvement, or construction of state mental health facilities.

California State Parks, through its Departmental 5-Year Infrastructure Plan, would be allocated approximately \$215 million in facility and infrastructure improvements. This amount is categorized, as follows:

- **41% for critical infrastructure deficiencies.** This category includes replacing or repairing deficient facilities such as lifeguard stations, maintenance facilities, day-use areas, restrooms, and visitor centers. These projects also restore or stabilize historic structures, and replace utilities such as sewage treatment and water delivery systems.
- **12% for Environmental Restoration.** Projects in this category generally include protection of habitats and environmentally sensitive areas by relocating campgrounds and other facilities, as well as realigning roads to reduce the level of runoff into stream waters.
- **30% for Facility/Infrastructure Modernization.** Projects in this category include renovating, expanding, and improving existing facilities to better serve the public.
- **17% for Public Access and Recreation.** The capital outlay projects included in this category fall within the following program areas:
  - ✓ Urban-Based State Park System Developments
  - ✓ Resource Interpretation and Education
  - ✓ Recreation Development
  - ✓ Trails Projects
  - ✓ Volunteer Enhancement Projects
  - ✓ Accessibility Requirements

Surveys have shown that public recreational access to the Department's lands and waters is consistently one of the highest demands placed on DPR.

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